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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,585	07/29/2003	Katsuyoshi Shigeyama	107348-00360	4071

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EXAMINER

BARRETT, SUZANNE LALE DINO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,585

Applicant(s)

SHIGEYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Suzanne Dino Barrett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 26, line 5, "an" should be –and–.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Draeger 5,623,844 or 102(e) as being anticipated by Barbier et al 6,508,088. Draeger clearly teaches a steering lock system comprising a control knob 12 attached by screws 18,18a to part of a rotor assembly 28a. Barbier et al teach a vehicle steering lock system comprising a control knob 38 attached by a screw to the rotor shaft 26.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamukai 6,751,991 in view of Molzer 6,354,119. Tamukai teaches a steering lock system comprising a control knob 24 attached to a fore end portion of the cylinder 20. (col.3, lines 38-40). Tamukai fails to teach the method of attachment. Molzer teaches a well known means of attaching a knob 70 to a rotor assembly by means of a screw 64. Molzer further teaches the use of a screw cap member 136. It would have been obvious to modify the knob of Tamukai by providing a screw attachment means as taught by Molzer to be well known and advantageous in providing a more secure attachment.

6. Claims 4,5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamukai 6,751,991 in view of Molzer 6,354,119 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Watanuki et al 6,389,856. Tamukai teaches a key insertion restraining member 60,62 but fails to provide a spring bias therefor. Watanuki et al teach the specifics of the lock system including a key insertion guide and restraining means. Watanuki et al teach a spring biased restraining member and slider 26,12,14,16 which normally block the keyhole but when actuated by a key, slide to a non-blocking position allowing turning of the rotor. It would have been obvious to provide a spring biased

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slider member as taught by Watanuki et al for the key insertion restraining member of Tamukai as a means to ensure the restraining means operates to allow insertion of the key only when in the locked position of the rotor.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamukai 6,751,991 in view of Molzer 6,354,119 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Block et al 4,118,962. Tamukai teaches a knob having an opening with the keyhole disposed therein. Tamukai fails to teach a cap for the keyhole. Block et al teach the use of cap members 12 for keyholes wherein the cap 12 is detachably mounted to the keyhole opening by resilient portions 28,30. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the knob of Tamukai by additionally providing a cap for the keyhole as taught by Block et al to be well known in preventing tampering with the lock.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2,3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record fails to teach a cover guide member received in the opening of the control knob to cover the screws and provide a key insertion guide means as claimed.

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Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the steering lock systems showing control knobs of Ochi, Canard, Okama especially.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne Dino Barrett whose telephone number is 703-308-0825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Will can be reached on 703-308-3870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3676

sdb